

C L A I M S

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application. A status identifier is provided for every claim and the current text of every claim is presented, unless the claim has been cancelled. Current amendments to the claims are expressed in the detailed listing by strikethrough or double brackets (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter).

1 – 38 (Cancelled)

39. (New) A method, comprising: ⁽ⁱ⁾
receiving, at a gaming device, a loan request including a loan amount;
sending an indication of the loan request to at least one casino employee, and
enabling a cash-out mechanism of the gaming device based on an approval of the loan request.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein sending an indication of the loan request comprises:
causing at least one of an audio and visual signal to be output to the at least one casino employee.
41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein sending an indication of the loan request comprises:
causing at least one of a beeper, cellular telephone and other computing device to output the indication of the loan request to the at least one casino employee.
42. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
receiving an approval of the loan request.
43. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein receiving an approval of the loan request comprises:

receiving, from the at least one casino employee, an approval of the loan request.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein receiving an approval of the loan request comprises:

receiving, via an input device of the gaming device, an authorization code from the at least one casino employee.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, wherein receiving an authorization code comprises:

receiving, via at least one of a keypad and a card reading device, an authorization code from the at least one casino employee.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the card reading device is operable to obtain information from at least one of a magnetic stripe card and a smart card.

47. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein receiving an approval of the loan request comprises:

receiving, from a computing device, an approval of the loan request based on a verification that a player associated with the loan request is a current guest of a hotel associated with the gaming device.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

transmitting, to the computing device, an identifier of the player associated with the loan request.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:

receiving, from the player, the identifier of the player.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising:

receiving, from the computing device, a direction to prompt the player for a further identifier that verifies the player is currently a guest of a hotel associated with the gaming device.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the further identifier comprises at least one of a personal identification number, a hotel room number, and a hotel room entry card identifier.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising:
prompting the player for the further identifier.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising:
receiving the further identifier; and
transmitting the further identifier to the computing device.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
receiving, from the computing device, a confirmation that the player is currently a guest of a hotel associated with the gaming device, thereby receiving an approval of the loan request.

55. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
establishing, based on the requested amount and before the approval of the loan request is received, a balance of credits available for wagering at the gaming device.

56. (New) A gaming device, comprising:
a processor; and
a storage device in communication with the processor, the storage device storing a program for direction the processor to:
perform the method of claim 39.

57. (New) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

perform the method of claim 39.

58. (New) A method, comprising:

(3)

receiving, at a gaming device, a loan request including a loan amount;

establishing, based on the loan amount, a balance of credits available for wagering at the gaming device;

disabling a cash-out mechanism of the gaming device; and

enabling the cash-out mechanism of the gaming device upon the occurrence one of:

receiving an approval of the loan request; and

determining that a payout at least equal to the loan request has been won at the gaming device using the established balance of credits,

wherein the loan amount is subtracted from the payout before the cash-out mechanism is enabled.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

sending, to a computing device, an indication of the loan request; and

sending, upon the occurrence of the payout at least equal to the loan request, an indication of cancellation of the loan request.

60. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device in communication with the processor, the storage device storing a program for direction the processor to:

perform the method of claim 58.

61. (New) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

perform the method of claim 58.

62. (New) A method, comprising:

(4)

receiving an indication that a player of a gaming device has requested a loan amount for wagering at the gaming device,

wherein a cash out mechanism of the gaming device is disabled once a balance based on the loan amount has been established at the gaming device;

approving the loan amount;

storing an indication of the loan amount in association with the player;

determining that the player has finished playing the gaming device before the loan amount has been repaid;

determining that the player has repaid the loan amount at a casino counter; and

storing an indication of the repayment of the loan amount.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

determining that a predetermined period of time since a time at which the player finished playing the gaming device has passed;

determining that the player has not repaid the loan amount during the predetermined period of time; and

charging a credit card of the player for at least a portion of the loan amount that has not yet been repaid.

64. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device in communication with the processor, the storage device storing a program for directing the processor to:

perform the method of claim 62.

65. (New) A computer readable medium encoded with instructions for directing a processor to:

perform the method of claim 62.